THE
Dan Smoot Report

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LEGISLATION BY EXTORTION

After 7 months of effort and an expenditure of 1 million, 600 thousand tax dollars, President Johnson's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (Riot Commission) released a report which blamed Negro violence on the "racism" of American whites, and not on Negroes who commit violence. The Commission said:

"Segregation and poverty have created in the racial ghetto a destructive environment totally unknown to most white Americans. . . . White society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it."(1)

Ghetto is an Italian word used in the middle ages to indicate parts of cities where Jews were required to live. By extension, the word means a section of any city where a particular racial group is *forced* to stay. There are no such ghettoes in the United States, as the Riot Commission itself inadvertently admitted when predicting that ghettoes *will develop* unless Negro demands upon whites are quickly satisfied. The Commission said the U.S. "could quite conceivably" develop "a kind of urban apartheid with semimartial law in many major cities, enforced residence of Negroes in segregated areas, and a drastic reduction in personal freedom for all Americans, particularly Negroes."(2)

The Riot Commission used the word *ghetto* to mean *Negro slums.*

Slums are created by people who live in them — white, Negro, or otherwise. Many of the worst Negro slums today were fine residential areas a few years ago. The Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn is a case in point. Not long ago, Bedford-Stuyvesant was an elite neighborhood for prosperous whites — clean, tranquil, with a minimum of crime. Today it is almost 100% non-white — cluttered and filthy; subway stations reeking of urine; prostitutes and narcotics pushers working the streets; liquor stores and sleazy bars everywhere; 80% of the teenagers high-school dropouts; one of the highest homicide rates in the country.

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The big wave of Negro immigrants who drove whites out of Bedford-Stuyvesant and started changing it into a pesthole came during World War II. They were not oppressed, jobless people with no place else to go. They were making big salaries in the Brooklyn Navy Yard and in other war industries which were only a few minutes away from the heart of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Appalled by the "spectacle of screaming mobs running through the streets, looting stores, burning buildings and cars, and killing innocent citizens," *Senator Robert C. Byrd (West Virginia Democrat)* spoke to the Senate on July 18, 1967, saying:

"We hear the usual excuses for the riots. The ghettos are blamed; yet, people of all races have lived in ghettos in the past but they have not rioted.

"Poverty is blamed for the riots; yet poverty-stricken whites outnumber poverty-stricken Negroes in America, but they are not rioting. . . .

"Discrimination, we hear, is back of the riots; yet, millions of lowly immigrants have come to this country, immigrants who could not even speak the English language and who were thus placed at an additional great disadvantage. . . . but they did not react with violence in the streets. They also lived in ghettos but they kept their ghettos clean. Their ghettos did not become slums. . . . These immigrants did not believe that they had a right to plunder or to burn or to destroy or to kill.

"Eradicate the slums, we are told, and this will prevent riots. Yet, Watts was not a slum. Slums. . . . develop as a result of the careless living of people — people who throw their trash in the hallways and on the stairways, into the yards, and onto the streets. If people are irresponsible and dirty in their way of living, and have no desire to put forth the effort to improve their surroundings, then we will have slums with slovenly people residing in them. . . .

"Men will not deserve or enjoy the respect . . . of their fellows except by earning it."[3]

Senator Robert C. Byrd is a liberal who has supported most of Johnson's outrageous Great Society programs.

Trying to deal with the questions raised by Senator Byrd and many others, the Riot Commission posed the question: "Why have so many Negroes, unlike the European immigrants, been unable to escape from the ghetto and from poverty?" The Commission said that when European immigrants arrived they gained an economic foothold by providing the unskilled labor our growing economy needed. Now, the Commission asserted, our economy has "matured," and unskilled Negroes migrating to our cities cannot find jobs.[1]

The truth is that there is today a greater abundance of jobs available for unskilled workers than were available for European immigrants in the past. Thousands of Negroes living on welfare will not work. They (like members of the Riot Commission and most other liberals) scorn the idea of Negroes accepting the kind of employment which gave white European immigrants an economic foothold and enabled them to climb out of the slums.

The Riot Commission excused Negroes for not accepting the kind of employment that saved white European immigrants, saying:

"Coming from societies with a low standard of living and at a time when job aspirations were low, the immigrants sensed little deprivation in being forced to take less desirable and poorly paid jobs. . . . Their vision of the future — one that led to a life outside of the ghetto — provided the incentive necessary to endure the present."[1]

Beginning at the bottom and working up became a proud tradition of white Americans. Negroes are entitled to dislike the tradition; but are they entitled to plunder whites (by violence and intimidation, or through the medium of government taxation) in order to get for nothing what whites worked to achieve?

If poor whites can have a "vision of the future" that provides "incentive necessary to endure the present," why not Negroes? They can, of course, and do — in large numbers. The Riot Commission virtually ignored this fact, just as it expressed little sympathy for whites who fail to climb out of the slums.

The Riot Commission said that poor white immigrants were able to improve their lot through

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political action, because they became powerful voting blocs in large cities, but that poor Negroes have no such political influence.[1] The truth is that Negro voting blocs in large northern cities have been more pampered, catered to, and bribed with tax money by politicians at all levels — local, state, and federal — than any other voting bloc in American political history.

After explaining why poor whites managed to escape from slums more quickly than Negroes, the Riot Commission contradicted itself by asserting that whites did not manage a quick escape after all. The Commission said:

"Today, whites tend to exaggerate how well and quickly they escaped from poverty. Those who came from rural backgrounds, as many Negroes do, are only now, after three generations, finally beginning to move into the middle class.

"By contrast, Negroes began concentrating in the city less than two generations ago. . . . although some Negroes have escaped poverty, few have been able to escape the urban ghetto."[1]

Whites are accused of vicious racism and brutal oppression of Negroes because they do not *give* Negroes instantly what whites struggled for 3 generations to achieve for themselves!

The Riot Commission said the economic gap between the white middle class and the Negro poor is a major cause of Negro unrest and violence; but poor whites are not rioting because of the economic gap between them and the Negro well-to-do. Moreover, the Negro middle class (as prosperous as the white middle class, and growing faster) produces the agitators, mostly college trained (Rap Brown, Martin Luther King, Whitney Young, Jr., Roy Wilkins, Stokely Carmichael, Louis Lomax, et al.), who have fanned the fires of race hatred.

The Riot Commission said unemployment causes Negro unrest and violence; but jobs which Negroes could fill go begging — even jobs created by Johnson's antipoverty programs and funded by Congress with tax money.[4]

The Commission blames Negro violence on "underemployment" (Negroes not making enough money because they cannot get jobs as good as those available to whites).[1] Yet, large numbers of high-level positions are held by Negroes (in government, entertainment, athletics, education, big industry, small business, religious work). In fact, there is much discrimination *in favor of Negroes*, and against whites, in employment.

Many big businesses (threatened with boycotts, violent demonstrations, and government persecution) make strenuous efforts to hire and promote Negroes to good jobs. Negroes are sometimes given "prestige" positions, merely because they are Negroes.

The percentage of Negroes in government jobs is higher than the percentage of Negroes in the population. Government agencies promote Negroes to superior positions when there are available whites with more seniority and qualifications for the jobs.

The Riot Commission holds that Negroes are neglected and therefore resentful because their districts, where the incidence of crime is disproportionately high, get no more (or get less) police attention than white districts where the incidence of crime is relatively low. Yet, the Commission implies that police needlessly insult Negroes by assigning more patrol cars to Negro districts than to white.

The Riot Commission says a major Negro grievance is that police do not give Negro districts as much protection from crime as white districts get; but most major Negro riots have been precipitated by Negro attacks on police (both Negro and white) for trying to enforce law in Negro districts.

The Riot Commission says Negro violence occurs because there are too few Negro policemen; but qualified Negroes do not want to work as policemen. The mayor of Jersey City says it is difficult to hire Negro policemen, because any Negro qualified to be a policeman can get a much better job in private industry than a white man with the same qualifications can get. In Dallas, there are about 15 Negroes on a police force of more than 1400, although the police department

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has been trying for years to hire Negro policemen (who get the same pay and treatment as whites). In 1967, the Dallas chief of police launched a special Negro recruiting drive. In March, 1968, he said he had had a "number of Negro applicants," but had not hired any, because none had passed the civil service test. In Dallas, as in Jersey City, "just about any Negro who could qualify for the police department could qualify for a helluva lot better job [elsewhere]."[5]

The Riot Commission holds that Negro misery and unrest are caused by white discrimination which prohibits Negroes from working and living as human beings without regard to their race. Yet, the Commission holds that non-discriminatory job-qualification standards, applied equally to whites and Negroes, are "artificial barriers" which whites throw up to keep Negroes out of good jobs.[1]

In other words, the Riot Commission members are "racists," just as dishonest as Martin Luther King and all other racist civil righters and agitators, when they say they want to eliminate racial discrimination. They want *more* racial discrimination — all of it in favor of Negroes.

The Riot Commission report was issued on February 29, 1968 — 4 months ahead of schedule. Why the hurry? The administration's civil rights bill (whose main provisions are open housing and protection of civil rights workers) was in trouble in the Senate. The Riot Commission's report predicted utter ruin for our nation if Congress does not, among other things, enact an open housing law. In less than 2 weeks after the report was released, the Senate passed the civil rights bill.

Is this not legislation by extortion?

The House passed the civil rights bill in 1967, without an open-housing provision. As this goes to press, House and Senate have not yet reconciled differences in the bills passed. Hence, the Civil Rights Act of 1968 has not yet been finally approved by Congress.

Your U. S. Representative should hear from you immediately.

RECORD OF THE 90TH CONGRESS

How did your 2 U.S. Senators vote on the Civil Rights Act of 1968? How did they vote on ratification of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Consular Treaty in 1967? How did they stand on *all* the major issues affecting your pocketbook, your personal freedom, the security of your nation?

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FOOTNOTES

(1) Complete text of the summary of the report issued by the President's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, AP, Mar. 3, 1968
(2) AP article by Sterling F. Green, *The Dallas Times Herald*, Mar. 3, 1968, pp. 1, 19
(3) "Violence In Our Major Cities," speech by U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd (W. Va. D.), *Congressional Record*, July 18, 1967, pp. S9906-7
(4) Article by William Raspberry, *The Washington Post*, May 29, 1967
(5) Article by Dennis Hoover, *The Dallas Morning News*, Mar. 17, 1968, p. A30

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